



King Josiah commanding the Vessels of the Grove to be burnt, and the Idolatrous Priests to be put down.

IN these proceedings of King Josiah, every Christian may learn his Duty so soon as he knows what may tend most to the advancement of God's Truth, to use his utmost endeavours in the promoting of it, and (as in Psalm 84.) to proceed from one degree of Grace to another until they be made perfect in Heaven; for though we dare not pretend to merit Heaven by our Works, yet we may assure our selves that Faith without Works is dead, because Faith cannot be known to be true Faith, except it be accompanied with good Works, no more than a Soldier can be known to be valiant except one time or other he hath been known to fight; and Men ought to seek God for his own sake, and not to make either Riches, Honors, or Preferments their ends, for he that so seeketh God, seeketh his own private Interest more than God, and at the last will be found to cheat himself. Likewise in destroying of Sin, we may learn first to take away the cause by which sins are committed, and then it will be the easier to overthrow it, as Josiah first caused the Vessels of the Grove to be burnt, and afterwards put down the Idolatrous Priests.

2 KINGS XXIII. vers. 4, 5.

And the King commanded Hilkiah the chief Priest, and the Priests of the second order, and the Keepers of the Door to bring forth out of the Temple of the LORD, all the Vessels that were made for Baal, and for the Grove, and for all the Host of Heaven: and he burnt them without Jerusalem in the Fields of Kidron, and carried the Ashes of them unto Bethel.

And he put down the Idolatrous Priests, whom the Kings of Judah had ordained to burn Incense in the High Places, in the Cities of Judah and in the places round about Jerusalem: them also that burnt Incense unto Baal, to the Sun, and to the Moon, and to the Planets, and to all the Host of Heaven.

BEhold Josiah, he no sooner knows God's righteous Laws, but straight to work he goes With might and main, resolving to fulfil To the utmost of his power, GOD's holy Will; Although he knew Juda must drink the cup Of GOD's most fiery Indignation up. Because they had provok't him by their Crimes, Of such a Scarlet dye in Pristine times: This to far more Revenge did rather move Him, mounting on the Wings of sacred Love. Idolatry wrought Israels Overthrow, Therefore he meant to give't a parting Blow. Behold how all Things in right course do stand To be consum'd by this good King's Command; Each takes its turn; first it must be the lot Of the Vessels for the Grove to go to'th pot. The means by which Idolatry was wrought, Must to Confusion first of all be brought; And then Idolatrous Priests themselves must sup Unto the bottom, this most wrathful Cup. Lord look on thine in this our Gospel-day, Let all Idolatry be done away. And on this manner let great Babel fall, Whose Blasphemies so loud thy Judgments call. Create in all her Lovers, a desire To throw her down: let her be burnt with Fire Of Christian Zeal; each day increase her pain; Lord, let her fall, never to rise again. Let no Man's Body of thy Plagues impart; Confute all Ignorance, and turn each Heart, To know, and love thy Truth, that all adore, In Unity, till Time shall be no more.